

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-31 (canceled).

32. (new) A tree climbing apparatus comprising:

a) a first platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is standing thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not standing thereon, the first platform having a first flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the first flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use;

b) a second platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is sitting thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not sitting thereon, the second platform having a second flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the second flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use;

c) wherein the first platform further comprises a pair of support arms adapted to releasably engage each end of the first flexible strap; and

d) wherein the support arms have a plurality of apertures and the first flexible strap has a spring clip at each end engaging a selected one of the plurality of apertures, thereby being adjustable for varying tree trunk diameters.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the user sits facing the tree while sitting on the second platform.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the first flexible strap and the second flexible strap are adjustable to accommodate tree trunks with varying diameter.

35. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the surface of the first flexible strap and the surface of the second flexible strap are made of a resilient material.

36. (new) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the resilient material is rubber.

37. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the second platform further comprises a pair of support arms adapted to releasably engage each end of the second flexible strap.

38. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the support arms have a plurality of apertures and the second flexible strap has a spring clip at each end engaging a selected one of the plurality of apertures, thereby being adjustable for varying tree trunk diameters.

39. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the first platform further comprises a pair of boot straps attached thereto.

40. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the second platform further comprises a padded back rest and a padded seat.

41. (new) A tree climbing apparatus comprising:

a) a first platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is standing thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not standing thereon, the first platform having a first flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the first flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use;

b) a second platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is sitting thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not sitting thereon, the second platform having a second flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the second flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use; and

c) wherein the second platform further comprises a pair of support arms adapted to releasably engage each end of the first flexible strap; and

wherein the support arms have a plurality of apertures and the second flexible strap has a spring clip at each end engaging a selected one of the plurality of apertures, thereby being adjustable for varying tree trunk diameters.

42. (new) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the first platform further comprises a pair of support arms adapted to releasably engage each end of the second flexible strap.

43. (new) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the support arms have a plurality of apertures and the second flexible strap has a spring clip at each end engaging a selected one of the plurality of apertures, thereby being adjustable for varying tree trunk diameters.

44. (new) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the user sits facing the tree while sitting on the second platform.

45. (new) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the first flexible strap and the second flexible strap are adjustable to accommodate tree trunks with varying diameter.

46. (new) A tree climbing apparatus comprising:

a) a first platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is standing thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not standing thereon, the first platform having a first flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the first flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use;

b) a second platform adapted to engage the tree trunk while the user is sitting thereon, and movable along the tree trunk while the user is not sitting thereon, the second platform having a second flexible strap removably attachable thereto, the second flexible strap having a non-scratching surface that does not scratch the tree trunk while in use;

c) wherein the platforms further comprise a pair of support arms adapted to releasably engage each end of the respective flexible straps; and

d) wherein the support arms have a plurality of apertures and the flexible straps have a spring clip at each end engaging a selected one of the plurality of apertures, thereby being adjustable for varying tree trunk diameters.

47. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the user sits facing the tree while sitting on the second platform.

48. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the first flexible strap and the second flexible strap are adjustable to accommodate tree trunks with varying diameter.

49. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the surface of the flexible straps are made of a resilient material.

50. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the first platform further comprises a pair of boot straps attached thereto.

51. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the second platform further comprises a padded back rest and a padded seat.

52. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the second platform further comprises a padded shelf upon which the user sits while ascending the tree.

53. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a cam strap attached to the second platform, the cam strap being adjustable to securely hold the second platform against the tree trunk.

54. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising backpacking straps attached to one of the first platform and second platform to allow the user to carry the apparatus on his back.

Respectfully submitted,

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